

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name The Island

Site Code S.USCOHP*10610

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 1459 Site Class PCA
Site Alias None

Network of Conservation Areas (NCA)

<u>NCA Site ID</u>	<u>NCA Site Code</u>	<u>NCA Site Name</u>
-		No Data

LOCATORS

Nation United States Latitude 371348N
State Colorado Longitude 1045136W

Quad Code Quad Name

37104-B7 Weston
37104-B8 Vigil

County

Las Animas (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name

11020010 Purgatoire

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	7,400.00 Feet	2,256.00 Meters
Maximum Elevation	7,650.00 Feet	2,332.00 Meters

Site Description

The Island is a small knoll surrounded on all sides by flat grazed meadows. The area covered by this site is approximately 900 acres. North-facing slopes have gradual pitch and are dominated by Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) with patches of Gambel oak (*Quercus gambelii*) in the understory. On well-shaded, north-facing slopes, the soil is moist, sandy loam. Bedrock outcrops (Poison Canyon Formation of sandstone, yellow siltstone and shale) provide microhabitat for lizards and pack rats. Evidence of bear, elk and deer is abundant. Dry and arid south-facing slopes contain sandy soil. South-facing slopes are dominated by Gambel oak mixed with patches of mountain mahogany (*Cercocarpus montanus*). Mountain muhly (*Muhlenbergia montana*) is the most common herbaceous component that together with little bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*) forms grassy patches between clumps of shrubs. This mosaic continues across the meadow, west along Pawley Canyon and also along the south-facing slopes of Dry Canyon.

Key Environmental Factors

No Data

Climate Description

No Data

Land Use History

Stumps from logging present.

Cultural Features

No Data

SITE DESIGN

Site Map Y - Yes Mapped Date 12/01/1997
Designer Carney, J.

Boundary Justification

Boundaries encompass the north edge of the Island plus the north slopes of Pawley Canyon and Dry Canyon. These boundaries allow for the aspect-specific communities to grow in a fairly extensive continuous area. Wildlife migration between the communities is more feasible within the boundaries proposed than between small, disconnected parks. Ideally, this site should cover enough area and contain enough individuals to withstand widespread disease or recover from a major burn. The boundary may have to be expanded as more is learned about maintaining the ecological integrity of the component plant communities.

Primary Area 925.73 Acres 374.63 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B3: High Biodiversity Significance

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Biodiversity Significance Comments

Two good (B-ranked) examples of plant communities occur within this site, the globally vulnerable (G3/S3) mesic oak thickets (*Quercus gambelii* - *Cercocarpus montanus* / *Carex geyeri*) and the globally common (G5/S4) western slope Douglas-fir forest (*Pseudotsuga menziesii* / *Quercus gambelii*). Both occurrences are relatively small, however the entire site is in good condition with few exotics and little signs of disturbance. Hay meadows and pastures that are interspersed throughout contain weedy species and exotics.

Other Values Rank No Data

Other Values Comments

No Data

LAND MANAGEMENT ISSUES

Land Use Comments

No Data

Natural Hazard Comments

No Data

Exotics Comments

No Data

Offsite

No Data

Information Needs

No Data

ASSOCIATED ELEMENTS OF BIODIVERSITY

<u>Element</u>			<u>Global</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Driving</u>
<u>State ID</u>	<u>State Scientific Name</u>	<u>State Common Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Site Rank</u>
24685	<i>Quercus gambelii</i> - <i>Cercocarpus montanus</i> / (<i>Carex geyeri</i>) Shrubland	Mixed Mountain Shrublands	G3	S3	Yes
24713	<i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i> / <i>Quercus gambelii</i> Forest	Western Slope Douglas Fir Forests	G5	S4	No

REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
160503	Carney, J., and J. Hobert. 1997. Colorado Natural Heritage Program Field Survey for the Upper Purgatoire River Inventory.

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

No Data

VERSION

Version Date 12/01/1997

Version Author Carney, J.

Disclaimer

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